

# KENTUCKY STATE SENATE



The Capitol  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
502-564-6136  
johnnyray.turner@lrc.ky.gov

29th District  
P.O. Box 5  
Drift, KY 41619

**Johnny Ray Turner**  
Democratic Caucus Chair

January 6, 2012

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch,

As a member of the Kentucky State Senate, representing all or portions of Breathitt, Floyd, Knott, and Letcher Counties, each of which is a rural, Appalachian mountain county. Each of the four counties suffers from very poor cellular telephone service, and in many of the more rural areas of these counties, no cell service is available at all.

I have read that LightSquared has filed a Petition for Declaratory Ruling with the FCC, in which it has asked the FCC to issue a ruling that it may fully utilize the portions of the bandwidth that it has properly obtained through the FCC's past procedures. While as an elected official I can take no official position on a contested matter, as a Kentucky State Senator representing a large rural area in Eastern Kentucky, underserved by cell service, I once again urge the FCC to do everything within its power to give rural America, including the four counties within my district, the benefits of both a strong, robust GPS system, and the full benefits of LightSquared's proposed 4G LTE system. I have also read articles that suggest that as many as 300 million GPS-enabled cell phones are already compatible with LightSquared's system, and that a number of high precision GPS manufacturers have developed devices that solve interference problems thought to be caused by LightSquared's system. This suggests to me that an engineering solution will fix the problem.

Good cellular broadband service in rural Kentucky is an issue of economics and public safety. As long as we are prevented from utilizing the same technology as residents of larger cities, we will suffer the economic and safety consequences. As a Kentucky State Senator who represents thousands of rural residents in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, I ask the FCC to do everything it can do to help LightSquared bring 4G broadband service to rural America. For those of us who live in rural areas, there are few issues more important today.

Sincerely,  
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Ray Turner".  
Johnny Ray Turner  
Kentucky Senate Democratic Caucus Chair